

The China Mail

Established February, 1845.

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HONGKONG, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1884.

日六月六申申

PRICE, \$2. PER MONTH

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL

PROSPECTUS.

THE HONGKONG & CHINA TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL, \$500,000. DOLLARS.
In 10,000 Shares of \$50 each, \$5 per share on Application, \$10 on Allotment, and the Remainder by Calls as required.

Provisional Committee:
The Hon. W. KERSEWICK (Chairman).
The Hon. T. JACKSON.
The Hon. F. D. SASSEON.
C. P. CHATER, Esq.
W. M. DANBY, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq.
W. K. HUGHES, Esq.
A. B. JOHNSON, Esq.
J. A. MOSELEY, Esq.
W. M. WOTTON, Esq.

Bankers:
THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
Engrossers:
W. M. DANBY, Esq., M. Inst. C.E.
R. K. LEIGH, Esq., Assoc. M. Inst. C.E.

Solicitors:
MESSRS. BRERETON, WOTTON AND DEACON.

Temporary Office:
13, PRAYA CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

THE Company has been formed for the purpose of constructing, equipping, and working a series of Low Level Steam Tramways in the City of Victoria, Hongkong. Two Special Ordinances (No. 6 and 18 of 1883) have been passed by the Legislative Council and the Government authorizing the construction and working of the same.

Victoria is very favourably adapted for Tramways owing to its configuration, the easy gradients of its principal streets (the main thoroughfare from the East to the West ends, along which the Tramways will be laid), and the immense incessant traffic. The Tramways will be constructed in the best and most substantial manner, and with all the latest improvements, with steel girder rails, bedded in concrete, but no wood or other perishable material will be used.

The Tramways are intended to be worked by Steam Traction, which being much more economical, trustworthy, and under more effective control, having more power of overcoming gradients, and giving better results (pecuniary and otherwise) than horse, compressed air, electricity or other motive power.

The engines will be constructed according to the Board of Trade regulations and will in no way be a nuisance, being almost noiseless, and having no machinery, smoke, or steam visible.

The Company anticipate, from the relatively low cost per mile of the projected Tramways, combined with other various advantages connected with the undertaking, that the dividend returns will be satisfactory.

There is no agreement or contract in existence affecting this undertaking.

Plans and Estimates may be seen at the Office, and the full Prospectus and Forms of Application for Shares and every other information may be obtained from:

THE SECRETARY AND ENGINEERS,
No. 13, PRAYA CENTRAL,
HONGKONG.

APPLICATIONS FOR SHARES will be received until the 30th SEPTEMBER.

Hongkong, August 7, 1884. 1319

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1862 to 1883, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.)

CAPITAL - £2,000,000.

First Issue of 100,000 Shares of £100 EACH, Of which 50,000 are Reserved for Issue in India, China, Japan and the Colonies.

PAYABLE

£1 on Application: £1 on Allotment, and the Balance of £9 at such times and in such sums not exceeding £2, as the Directors may determine, and at intervals of not less than one month.

INTEREST: Five per cent. per annum will be allowed upon all payments made in advance of Calls.)

Directors:
CHRISTIAN ALTHUSEN, Esq.,
D. L. W. P. Director of the International Bank of London, Limited.

LIONEL R. COYLE, Esq.,
Of Messrs. Boyle, Campbell, Buxton & Co.,
30, Lombard Street, E.C.

W. V. CARGILL, Esq.,
Founder of the Bank's Corporation.

E. K. HARLISON, Esq., C.S.I.,
Formerly President of the Bank of Bengal.

A. J. MACDONALD, Esq.,
Late of Sir Charles Forbes & Co., and
formerly President of the Bank of
Bombay.

SIR BENJAMIN C. C. PINE, K.C.M.G.,
Oriental Club, Hanover Square, late
Governor of Leeward Islands.

GRANT HEATHY TOD-HEATHY, Esq.,
13, Carlton House Terrace,
London, S.W.

Bankers:
THE UNION BANK OF LONDON,
LIMITED.

THE BANK OF SCOTLAND,
(Edinburgh, London and Branches).

Brokers:
MESSRS. STEER, LAWFOORD & CURTIN,
3, Drapers' Gardens, E.C.

Solicitors:
MESSRS. BOLLAMS, SON & COWARD,
Mincing Lane, London.

Interim Secretary:
R. T. ROHDE, Esq.,
TEMPORARY OFFICES: 40, Threadneedle
Street, E.C.

Form of Application for SHARES may be obtained from the OFFICES of the
ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, April 26, 1884. 1307

WITH Reference to the above, BUSI-
NESS will be Communicated on the
1st MAY, 1884.

For the
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, April 26, 1884. 718

1307

For Sale.

TAILORING GOODS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., beg to announce that they have just received a very large assortment of material in the newest patterns for the Autumn and Winter trade, and having now the assistance of three of the best London Cutters, they are able to guarantee the prompt and satisfactory execution of orders.

All Clothes made will be equal in style and fit to those of the London West-end Tailors, and superior in general workmanship and finish.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., have the pleasure to submit the following greatly reduced prices, at which they are prepared to fulfil orders.

Dress Suits in Black Superfines and new Cashmeres, from \$35.

Diagonal Morning Coats and Vests, \$20.

Fancy Angola Trouzers, \$7.

Fancy Angola or Homespun Suits in great variety, \$22.

Fancy Angola Sac Coats and Trousers, \$14.

Blue & White Serge, \$10.

White and Coloured Flannel Coats and Trousers, \$11.

Fancy Cloth and Diagonal Over-Coats in all substances, \$20.

Uilsters in Frieze, Witney and Homespuns, \$25.

Riding Pants, and Breeches, in Cassimere and Cord, \$10.

Flannel Pyjamas, 4.50.

Hongkong, August 15, 1884. 1371

NOTICE.

SAYLE & Co. beg to inform their Customers and the Public in general that in consequence of the Death of the SENIOR PARTNER, the BUSINESS carried on in HONGKONG will be CLOSED.

On or before the 31st day of August Next,

AND THE WHOLE OF THE STOCK is now offered at a REDUCTION of 25 per Cent. on the Marked Prices.

Special terms will be made for parcels of Goods over \$100 in value purchased at one time.

All Sales from this date will be for Cash only. Customers are requested to make immediate Payment of Amounts due by them to the late Firm.

SAYLE & Co., VICTORIA EXCHANGE, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, June 9, 1884. 951

OVERSTRUNG TRICORD COTTAGE

PIANOS,

by

NEUMAYER & Co., WEIDENSLAUFER & ROSENKRANZ.

Specially manufactured for this climate.

COMPLETE IRON FRAME AND TUNING PLATE,

Unrivalled for Brilliance and Sweetness of Tone.

FINEST TOUCH.

Price for Cash, from \$230 to \$250.
On Hire, per month, from \$15 to \$20.

Special attention is called to the fact that after having hired a Piano for 14 months, it will become without further payment the property of the hirer.

INSPECTION SOLICITED.

Apply to

Prof. A. VITA,

4, Old Bailey Street.

Hongkong, July 14, 1884. 1159

Intimations.

Intimations.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR 1883.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company are requested to furnish the Underwriters a List of the Contributions for the year ended 31st December last, in Order that the DISTRIBUTION of the PROFITS reserved for Contributors may be arranged. Returns not rendered prior to the Thirty-first day of October next, will be adjusted by the Company, and no Claims or Alterations will be subsequently admitted.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, August 15, 1884. 1373

NOTICE.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION IN LIQUIDATION.

ALL HOLDERS of NOTES of the ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION (Hongkong Branch), are hereby requested to present them to the LIQUIDATOR of the Bank, when they will be given in Exchange, a certificate of the value of the Notes deposited.

HOLDERS of NOTES will be required to furnish to the LIQUIDATOR of the Bank, a schedule in duplicate, giving the date of issue, Number and Amount of each Note produced.

Terms of Schedule may be had on application at the OFFICE of the ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

For the

OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR

OF THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION,

By his attorney,

J. MELVILLE MATSON,

H. HOWARD TAYLOR.

Hongkong, May 1, 1884. 1340

Hongkong, August 2, 1884. 1340

THE CHINA MAIL

[No. 6572.—August 16, 1884.]

THE CHINA MAIL
THE CHINA MAIL & CO.
10, Queen's Road East,
(OPPOSITE THE COMMISARIAT),
ARE NOW
LANDING FROM AMERICA.

TOPPOON BUTTER.
Eastern and California CHEESE.
CODEINE, Boncuss.
Prime HAMS and BACON.
Eagle Brand Condensed MILK.
Family BEER in 25 lb. cans.
Beau Ideal SALMON in its cans.
Cutting Dessert FRUITS in 2 lb. cans.
Assorted Canned VEGETABLES.
Potted SAUCE and Sauces.
MINT.
Stuffed PEPPERS.
Assorted SOUPS.
Richardson & Hobbin's Celebrated Potted MEATS.
Lunch HAM.
Lamb's KONGUES.
Clam CHOWDER.
Fresh OREGON SALMON.
Dried APPLES.
TOMATOES.
SUCOCAJASH.
Maple SYRUP.
Golden SYRUP.
Cracked WHEAT.
HOMINY.
HONEY.

FAIRBANKS' SCALES.

400 lb. Capacity.
600 lb. "
900 lb. "
1,200 lb. "

K A I S A R I H I N D
CIGARETTES
in crystallized Boxes of 100 at \$6.50
per millie.

SPORTING AND RIFLE GUNPOWDER
in 1 lb. Tins.

AGATE IRON WARE.
INSERTION RUBBER.
TUCK'S PATENT PACKING.

HITCHCOCK HOUSE LAMPS.
PERFECTION STUDENT LAMPS.
LAWN BOWLS.

PAINTS and OILS.
TALLOW and TAR.
PITCH and ROSIN.

Ex late arrivals from
ENGLAND.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF
S T O R E S,
including:

ALMONDS and RAISINS.
FRENCH PLUMS.
TYRONE'S DESSERT FRUITS.
JORDAN ALMONDS.

FINE YORK HAMS.
PIONI TONGUES.
BREAKFAST TONGUES.
PATES DE FOIE GRAS.

Dig CHICKS.
Yarmouth BLOATERS.
Kippered HERRINGS.
Herring in a SARDINES.

IRISH BACON in tins.
COCCATINA.
VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA.
EAT'S COCOA.

S P A T A N
COOKING STOVES.

CLARETS.—
CHATEAU MARGAUX.
CHATEAU LA TOUR, pints & quarts.

RED GRAVES.
BREAKFAST CLARET, "

SHERRIES & PORT.—
SACCO'S MANZANILLA & AMON-

TILLADO.
SACCO'S OLD INVALID PORT
(1848).

HUNT'S PORT.

BRANDY, WHISKY, LIQUEURS, &c.
1 and 3-star HENNESSY'S BRANDY.
COUSIN'S BRANDY.

FINE OLD BOURBON WHISKY.

KINAHAN'S LIL WHISKY.

ROYAL GLENDEE WHISKY.

BOBBY'S OLD TOM.

E. & J. BURKE'S IRISH WHISKY.

ROSE'S LIME JUICE CORDIAL.

NOELLY PEAT & CO.'S VERNUTH.

JAMESON'S WHISKY.

MARSALA.

EASTERN OIDER.

CHARTREUSE.

MARASCHINO.

ANGOSTURA BOKER'S AND ORANGE

BITTERS.

&c., &c., &c., &c.

BASS'S ALE, bottled by CAMERON and
SAUNDERS, pints and quarts.

GUINNESS'S STOUT, bottled by E. &
J. BURKE, pints and quarts.

DAUGHT ALE and PORTER, by the
Gallon.

ALE and PORTER, in hogsheads.

SPECIALLY SELECTED

C I G A R S.

June New Season's CUMSHAW TEA, in
5 catty Boxes.

BREAKFAST CONGOU @ 25 cents p. lb.

MILNER'S PATENT FIRE-PROOF
SAVES, CASH and PAPER
BOXES, at Manufacturer's Price.

Hongkong, August 15, 1884.

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.

W. H. PHOENIX, this day admitted as
a Partner in our Firm Mr. WILLIAM
SNELL ORR.
Our PARTNERS now are Mr. THOMAS
DEAS BOYD, Mr. EDWARD NEILSON
ROSE, Mr. THOMAS COVIL and Mr.
WILLIAM SNELL ORR.

BOYD & CO.

Amoy, 1st July, 1884.

1084

Intimations.

HOP SHING & CO.,
ENGINEERS, BOILER MAKERS,
COPPER SMITHS, BRASS & IRON
FOUNDERS, &c.,
WEST POINT IRON WORKS.

TO BE OPENED

1884.

TO BE OPENED

THE CHINA MAIL.

TELEGRAMS.

THE PROVOCATION OF PARLIAMENT.
LONDON, Aug. 16th.
Parliament is further prorogued until the 15th of September.

The Queen's speech deeply regrets the failure of this conference on Egyptian affairs and of the carrying out of certain legislative measures. The duties arising from the British occupation of Egypt will be faithfully executed by the Government.

The speech alludes to the forthcoming autumn session and states a belief that important questions now pending will be satisfactorily settled.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED CANAL.—Anterior, July 25; Agamemnon, Andraj, and Glenoge, July 31.

The S. S. *Minerva*, left Sydney for this port on the 3rd inst.

The little steamer *Mary Austin*, chartered by the Chinese Government, left here for Foochow to-day with 1200 lbs. of dynamite on board.

The steamer *Chi-wei*, which came in from Singapore yesterday, has been put into quarantine on account of a death having occurred on board on the way up.

This forenoon, Messrs Lane, Crawford & Co. disposed of the Spanish barque *Catania*, 420 tons, at public auction for \$4,400. Mr F. Rapp, auctioneer, after a spirited contest, became the purchaser. The bidding started at \$1,000.

It is, perhaps, only just to the members of the older battery of Royal Artillery stationed here, to state that the two artillery men who were yesterday charged at the Police Court and acquitted belonged to the new battery.

The Government Astronomer reports:—It appears that the depression announced here on the 12th has passed northwards and that it was nearest on the 13th. It is not impossible that there is another depression in the far East.

The Manager of the Oriental Bank here received a telegram this morning stating that the New Oriental Banking Corporation, Limited, offer to 'depositors' in the old Oriental Bank, who open accounts in the new institution, 80 per cent. of the balances standing at their credit in the old bank, and that the remaining 20 per cent. will be accounted for to such depositors as it may be received from the liquidation. This is an increase of 10 per cent. on the last offer, and is the best evidence that the liquidation will be more satisfactory than has been anticipated.

A man named Thomas Phipps, described as an unemployed steward, was taken charge of by the Police at the instigation of Mr Justice Russell, who, on enquiring as to how Phipps did not appear to defend an action brought against him in the Summary Jurisdiction Court, was informed that he was lying sick in a room all by himself. It seems that after Phipps was visited with the view of removing him to the Hospital, or some other place where he might be attended to, he became violent; and, as a result, he was taken before Mr Maclean and charged with being a dangerous lunatic. Mr Maclean ordered the man to be placed under the observation of the Colonial Surgeon for a week.

There was little change in the aspect of affairs at Foochow on the 14th instant. All the French men-of-war at Pagoda Anchorage were cleared for action, and the Chinese troops on the hills were apparently as busy as ever constructing earthworks.

The French fleet has been further reinforced by the *Vizier*, which was engaged in the operations against Keeling. The transport *Merle*, with two battalions of Algerian troops on board, was also lying outside in company with the *Bayard*, and, as the steamer *Beauraing*, Captain Duke, came out of the river Min on Friday, another French troopship, probably the *Turenne*, which left Haiphong with 1,000 troops on board a few days ago, was coming in. The French will thus have a respectable landing party at their command if they should attack Foochow. Both the Min and Kimpai Passes were guarded by French boats; one of these had a boat swung out from her bow with a torpedo net suspended therefrom.

The U. S. man-of-war *Enterprise* arrived from Shanghai and was anchored near the *Merle*. A number of men were landed from the *Enterprise*. H. B. M.'s ship *Sophie*, with Admiral Dowell on board, was in company with H. B. M.'s ship *Champion* at Pagoda Anchorage on the 14th instant.

The desertion from the Chinese men-of-war are said to be very numerous, no less than 60 men having deserted from one ship.

The *Genie*, shipped 1,300 tons of tea at Foochow.

Since writing the above we have heard that a transport which had arrived at Foochow received mated sailing orders on Friday.

On July 25.—News has been received here that a severe shock of earthquake has occurred at Ningpo, which has completely wrecked the town.

AUSTRALIAN papers state that Mr De Lissa, from North Borneo, is in Melbourne trying to induce the owners of the Chinese liners to make their vessels call at Sandakan harbour on their way.—*Strait Times*.

The most prosperous journal in the whole world must be a small country sheet hailing from Cornwall—that is, if the editor does not exaggerate. He writes that 'we are paying off the National Debt at the rate of several millions a year, and yet we do not feel it.'

The *Strait Times* of the 7th August says: We have to record another death from hydrocephalus. A Chinese telephone clerk employed at Tanjong Pagar was bitten by a dog five weeks since, and, symptoms of hydrocephalus set in the day before yesterday. Dr Leask was called in, but the case was hopeless and the boy died early this morning at the General Hospital.

The Melbourne papers state that all the Australian Governments except that of New Zealand have agreed to recommend their Parliaments to contribute to the guarantee of £15,000 required by Lord Derby towards the expenses of the High Commissioner for New Guinea. The delay of the New Zealand Government is from obvious causes, and it was not anticipated they would stand out. The Agents General in London have now been informed that the amount required will be forthcoming.

Now that so-called aestheticism is dying out, Miss Müller is to be congratulated on having provided a new sensation for the afternoon tea of ladies of the advanced school. Whilst sundry articles of her furniture were being removed from her drawing-room, 'in satisfaction of the Queen's taxes,' this champion of her sex conversed with a party of kindred spirits in her drawing-room; and whilst the broker's men were carrying off her worldly goods in one place, Miss Müller and her friends were carrying on amid indignation meeting in another. What a grand idea for now invitation cards!—*Tea and distract* at 5.30.—*Leicester*.

The plaintiffs in the action for libel at the instance of the Tanjong Pagar Land Company against *Strait Times* filed their statement of claim last week, along with some interrogatories having for their chief object to ascertain the name of the writer of the letters complained of. Application was made yesterday (August 5th) to Mr Justice Ford in chambers by Mr Bowes, the defendants' counsel, to strike out the interrogatories in the meantime and until the statement of defense should be filed. Mr Donaldson appeared for the plaintiffs and opposed the application. After some discussion His Honor ordered the interrogatories to be struck out.—*Strait Times*.

The Commission appointed to study the reorganization of the Spanish fleet has concluded its work, and submitted a series of proposals to the Government. The Spanish navy consisted in 1863 of five ironclads, an ironclad monitor, a floating battery, and 117 other vessels; the navy possesses besides thirty-five gun-boats for the defence of the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico. According to the new proposals, the reorganization of the fleet ought to be completed in ten years, at the end of which time Spain would possess twelve ironclads, two ironclad monitors, seven first-class, nine second-class cruisers, eleven third-class cruisers, thirty torpedo-boats, and six transports. A sum of 230,000,000 pesos, to be spent in ten years, is demanded from the Government.

The Defences of Canton.

At the present moment, when any hour may bring the intelligence that war has actually been declared between France and China, the actual condition, as regards their defensive capabilities, of all the coast ports of China, is a matter of considerable interest.

In the month of December last we published in our columns an account of the defences of Canton as they then existed, but a good deal had been done since then to add to the difficulties which a hostile port would have to encounter in getting up to the 'City of Raums' by the river.

The *Bogue* fort, beside the seven twenty-five-ton guns and a quantity of cast iron guns of various calibres which formed their armament in December last, has since received several Armstrong guns of heavy calibre. There are, altogether, four distinct forts at the Bogue, two of which are really good works of defence.

The earthworks near Whampoa, which was engaged in the operations against Keeling. The transport *Merle*, with two battalions of Algerian troops on board, was also lying outside in company with the *Bayard*, and, as the steamer *Beauraing*, Captain Duke, came out of the river Min on Friday, another French troopship, probably the *Turenne*, which left Haiphong with 1,000 troops on board a few days ago, was coming in. The French will thus have a respectable landing party at their command if they should attack Foochow. Both the Min and Kimpai Passes were guarded by French boats; one of these had a boat swung out from her bow with a torpedo net suspended therefrom.

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fortifications are also visible on the northern side, as well as some encampments of troops at a distance of a mile or so from the river. The white tents of the soldiers are very conspicuous on the tops of some hills of moderate elevation, and would make capital marks for the gunners of a hostile army; if they succeeded in descending the river so far.

The northern reach of the river is also fortified with some earthworks a little above Whampoa, and the works on the low island below the Salt Flats have been supplied with some heavy guns, though the battery appears to be deserted by the garrison at present.

Some of the forts are gay with flags, but comparatively few bravely to be seen and it is a puzzle to find out where all the thirty thousand soldiers said to be guarding the approaches to Canton are to be found.

Besides the forts enumerated, the defences of the river now include three distinct lines of torpedoes, of the electric kind, which have been laid under the superintendence of Mr J. A. Bots, of the Imperial Torpedo Department, at Whampoa, and the stone batteries which extend across the river, leaving only a passage in the centre about 300 feet wide. This could be closed in a couple of hours by sinking a few stone-junks in the channel and would form a most effectual barrier, until the necessary force and time could be brought to bear for its removal. A telegraph station in connection with the Hongkong-Canton line has been opened at the Bogue so that the alarm might be given in the event of a hostile movement being made by the enemy's fleet, when the river would be immediately blocked.

Altogether, it looks as though it would be a difficult thing for an enemy's fleet, consisting, as it must necessarily do, of the lighter class of gun-vessels, to reach Canton, and the natives of the city seem to have come to the same conclusion. His Excellency the Viceroy spent three days last week in a thorough inspection of the various preparations for defence and expressed himself very well satisfied with the result of his examination.

The Capture of Keeling.

HERRENRO The accounts published of the capture of Keeling have not confirmed the specific cablegram we received stating that the mines and machinery had been destroyed by the Chinese, and that two Frenchmen were killed and six wounded. The steamer *Will o' the Wisp*, however, which was at Keeling subsequent to the bombardment and arrived here yesterday, brings information which practically corroborates our cablegram. It seems that the French force which landed returned on board at night fall, and as the hills overlooking the harbour were immediately again occupied by thousands of armed Chinese, it is easy to understand that the French were powerless to prevent the natives from taking any steps they pleased to destroy the mines.

The *Will o' the Wisp* brings the news that the mines were destroyed, although there appears to be still a supply of coal lying in heaps about the place. If the Chinese thought that the French would again effect a landing and that the coal and mines would be useful to them, it may be safely concluded they were destroyed. Those on board the *Will o' the Wisp* state that the French had one man killed, six wounded and two taken prisoners. One of these unfortunate men who were captured is said to have died, and the other to have been very badly used.

The affair tends to show how little the French will be able to effect against the Chinese so long as they confine their operations to naval warfare.

Mr Deacon stated that the principle of valuation which they admitted was the cost of reproduction.

After some discussion, it was decided to 'hold over' the decision on the claim until after the settlement of Mr T. March Brown's case.

E. M. MARINOV, \$3,800.

The claim of the Executors of K. M.

The case of Dr Wales, which was commenced on Wednesday, was then proceeded with. The claimant being cross-examined by Mr Deacon gave evidence to the following effect:—

Had come out in 1881 and went to Tientsin and afterwards to Shanghai. In April 1882, having resigned his appointment with the Chinese Government, he came to Canton and bought Dr Carrow's practice, for which he paid \$4,000. He

also purchased some furniture, medical apparatus and instruments from Dr Carrow.

The amount of the things bought of Dr Carrow direct would be about \$200 or \$300.

These things were included in the claim sent in. The instruments purchased from Dr Carrow were as good as now.

He received an offer from Dr Carrow by letter, to take over the contents of the house as it stood, but had declined it.

Afterwards some of the best furniture was sent by Dr Carrow and the rest sold by auction. Mr Rozario was the auctioneer.

He bought some things at the auction himself.

He remembered there was a dining-table, a puncheon, a roll of coir matting and a litter.

He did not remember what he paid for them. He believed there were some more things bought at the auction; there were a pair of sonatone pedogas, a curtain pole, &c. He thought he paid for them by cheque, but he had not the counterfoil of the cheque; it was burnt. He paid for the things direct to Dr Carrow, not to the auctioneer.

The roll of matting put down in the list at \$12 was the one bought at the auction. The dining-table was a good one and he could not get one like it under \$25.

The puncheon in the same room was put down at \$12. It was a very handsome punkah, made of hard wood, covered with white cloth and trimmed with some kind of braid. The filter was put down at \$7.

He had bought another from Messrs Lane, Crawford & Co., for which he had to pay double that amount. Mr Thomas had an assured claimant in fixing the price of the articles on the list.

There were several other auctions that he attended. He remembered buying a coal scuttle at Dr Carrow's auction, and a clock at Mr Law's sale. The clock was put down at \$40. He bought it at the auction.

He had a preserving stand at

THE SHAMSEN CLAIMS.

(From our Reporter.)

CANTON, August 14th.

The Commission for the settlement of the Shamsen-claims, which was adjourned on Wednesday last, was opened again at 10 a.m. this morning, by Mr H. S. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate for the Supreme Court of China and Japan and H. E. King, Faunt, the Commissioners appointed to adjudicate the claims. Dr Hance, H. M.'s Acting Consul, who was returned to Canton, Mr R. Mansfield, H. M.'s Vice-Consul at Canton, and Siu Min Kook, late Magistrate of Nanchow, had also sat on the bench.

Mr V. H. Deacon again appeared on behalf of the Chinese Government, and Mr J. D. Stephens for Dr Wales and Mr Thos. Marsh Brown.

Several small claims which had been heard over for consideration by the Commissioners were first taken and disposed of.

Chow Kum, \$360.10 was awarded \$300; Hwang Po, whose claim was \$154, received \$160; and the servants of the Municipal Council, whose claims amounted to \$625, were settled with \$600, all of the claimants being paid in full but the boy, whose claim was reduced to \$75.

The claim of the Shamsen Municipal Council, for \$3,365.37, was settled for \$3,200.

E. N. MEHRA, \$3,850.

The claim in this case was for the alleged value of a bungalow destroyed at the fire.

Claimant, in his examination, stated that he had paid that amount to a Chinese contractor to erect the bungalow in 1872, and that he had spent \$200 on it, every two years, for repairs.

The house had at first been let at a rental of \$40 per month, but latterly at \$35, the tenant paying the taxes.

It was put in repair in 1881. There were six rooms, besides the cook-house, in the building.

There was no insurance on the house.

Mr. Danby was called on behalf of the Chinese Government to give evidence as to the value of the property. He had visited the ruins of the bungalow, the brickwork of the foundations of which were intact. There was not much *debris* remaining of the woodwork, but it appeared that some of the wood used was China fir and some hardwood. The frames were fair and the flooring Singapore wood. Mr Danby remembered the house before it was destroyed. He estimated the cost of reconstructing it at \$1,783. Reckoning the value of the house from the rental, it would be worth about \$2,000.

Mr Deacon stated that the principle of valuation which they admitted was the cost of reproduction.

The Court then adjourned.

Upon the members of the Commission

reassembling at 2 o'clock Mr Deacon stated that after having gone carefully through the list, he was unable to see that the sum total of the claims should amount to more than \$10,000.

Mr Stephens, on behalf of his client,

was willing to entertain any reasonable offer, but the amount named was far below the sum upon which he was in a position to make a compromise.

Mr Deacon then desired a short interview with H. E. the Chinese Commissioner and the proceedings were suspended for a few moments during which H. E. King and his court went for consultation.

On returning to the Court room

Mr Deacon stated that he was empowered to make an offer to Dr Wales on the basis of the following reductions from the list of claims:—

Claimed. Offered.

Front Hall. \$150 \$125

Back Hall. 47 40

Back Verandah. 30 30

Dining Room. 730 550

NOTES ON CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

By J. THOMSON, Esq., M.A.

(Continued.)

At Hong Kong our steamer took on board between 600 and 700 emigrants of the latter class. It is a sight to see them come on board, after which the visual sense is supplemented by others. They swarm over, like so many pirates, shouting and gestulating. The torrent pours over the ship's side by every variety of improvised ladder or rope, and the great flat boats, below, where the men still stand thick as ants, never seem to grow emptier. As many as 18,000 of these emigrants left Andy in one year recently. At Swatow, on the following day, we found another emigrant boat, between 600 and 650 souls, in which we had not completed our stated capacity for such passengers, viz., 1,226. The man from Swatow emigrated, as I understand, under the first-maintained system. In former years this traffic was very impudently conducted, and the man sold into what in fact amounted to slavery; but it seems that the abuses of this system have been largely rectified.

After discharging the emigrants at Singapore our steamer proceeded to Saigon to load with rice. There is a hospital here of 520 beds, being the largest on the coast. The French have possessed this place, with the six provinces of Lower Cochinchina, for a little more than twenty years, and it is interesting to compare Saigon with the British Colonies and Settlements in the East. Commercially, no comparison could be more striking. The port of Saigon, so far from flourishing, requires a periodical visit from a steamer, and, with questionable policy, seeks to draw a revenue from an export tax on rice.* Five million piculs are sometimes annually exported to Hongkong and China, in European ships alone; but, owing to this duty the trade to Europe has lapsed in favour of the rice not subject to a tax, such as the Burmese. This duty will bring to the French treasury as much as seven million francs in a good year; but it can scarcely be looked upon as a healthy course of revenue. There is at this place, and with greater reason, a heavy import duty on Indian opium, which is largely consumed by the Chinese, and by a few of the Annamites, at Saigon. Here, as in so many other Eastern towns, the business quarter, as has been well said, is in fact a Chinese city. The wharf of the internal trade is in the hands of Chinese. It is a more significant fact that the external trade of Saigon only about 15 per cent. is conducted by the French. Of the 207 ships which entered the port in 1880, 162 were British, 40 German, and but 5 French, the latter having a tonnage of 13,000 out of a total of 290,000.

The entire Foreign Trade of China, for 1882, amounted to 147 millions of taels, or against 163 millions in 1881. As regards Imports, which are less by fourteen millions, the decline has seriously affected English goods (cottons, woollens, &c.), and also, to a notable extent, Indian opium, which shows a deficiency of seven millions of taels in 1882. In the Export trade there is a similar reduction, of four millions since 1881, of ten millions since 1880. The two staple articles of export, tea and silk, have the country in a quantity which is steadily diminishing year by year. Such a condition of affairs is far from satisfactory. Unless some depression can be unmitigately traced to some temporary cause, we cannot fail to feel of evil augury for the future of our trade, and demands on grounds of practical policy an early rectification.

On arriving, under the guidance of a courteous Chinaman, we visited the largest opium-house in Shanghai. The visitor is astonished at the magnitude and brilliancy of the establishment. One is mindful of the stock descriptions of the opium smoker's haunts; and remembers, perhaps, the opium "dens" of Singapore—mud huts, at short intervals along the road, overshadowed by coco-nut palms, and denoted by coloured paper, inscribed with Chinese characters, and by small sign-boards, with a suggestive notice such as that "Licensed Opium House, No. 214." But here, at Shanghai, the broad entrance is flanked with flaring lights, and scores of well-dressed Chinese are passing and repassing. In the ground-floor bowls and billiards are played. The room is large and brilliantly lighted. From the entrance on six stairs we pass up to the first floor, and is crowded, like Jacob's ladder, by Celestials, ascending and descending from what is, to many of them, their earthly paradise. Making our way with difficulty up the flight, we found ourselves in the centre of a spacious room, divided, by many zig-zag partitions, into a number of recesses. Towards the centre of the room and around the stairway were placed small tables of polished wood and marble, and here many were taking tea and tobacco, as we did, the smoke of the latter being drawn through water. Nowhere in the establishment did we meet a single European. The celebrated dwarf stairs, trained with great care into the shapes of eagles, antelopes, &c., were placed at intervals. These are valued at a high price.

The recesses before noted are closed on three sides by walls panelled and elegantly decorated; couches are ranged around, and two or three tables and chairs in the centre of the space. Through these four Chinese "dens" smoking on the couches in recesses and six or eight will be standing beside—either attendants, or smokers awaiting their turn. The opium smoker reclines on one side, leaning against pillows. At the end of his couch there is an oblong tray, containing the pipe, lamp, opium, &c. These he manipulates with a languid air, and, stolid, indifferently countenance, which sometimes gives evidence to his habit, by its gaunted appearance, and dull, bloodless lips. Slowly he turns the pipe on which he has taken up the opium, like a small drop of treacle. Then he heats it over the lamp, and when, after many turns and twists, the mass is nearly burning, he introduces it into the pipe, and takes his smoke, slowly drawing it into the lungs, and after an interval giving it forth again by the nostrils. This performance he repeats until the opium purchased is exhausted. Often I have watched the same process among the Chinese emigrants on board ship, when a large number, although far in proportion, smoked opium every night. The smokers of tobacco were much more numerous.

In spite of statements to the contrary, I am led to believe that great numbers of the opium smokers never go beyond the limits of moderation, using the opium pipe, as so many take tobacco, for its mildly stimulating and soothing effect. It is a mistake to suppose that thus taken opium causes sleep or stupor. Of course in a good opium house, such as the one described, there will be many smokers sufficiently wealthy and dissolute to smoke to excess, and one sees the evidence of it in their face. Among the lower class poverty is very general, a sufficient preventive of excess (I use the term with reference to the actual quantity taken); and the coolies who work twelve or fifteen hours in the streets, who subsist on the scanty diet of rice, and such poor vegetables and

* In 1883 this was 15 cents per picul; in 1882 13 cents.

+ A Hawk-head equals 6s. 6d. of our money.

animal food as they can obtain; and who are habitually exposed to cold and wet, as well as to dirt, overcrowding, and disease—these men, whose endurance and capacity for labour astonish us, come to look upon their evening smoke as the one luxury of their lives, when the wearied limbs are rested, the tired muscles unstrung, and a general sense of comfort obtained, prior to the slumbers of night. Judicial and medical reports, however, decried the devoured of women, and self-poisoned by a vitiated air. "Why do you smoke opium?" was asked of a shoemaker, who had thereby reduced himself and family to poverty, and the answer is full of meaning—"Because it is the only pleasure I have."

DISCOURSES.—We went out to dinner the other night, and tasted some most delicious soup. I perverted a few small pieces of mudness, and asked our hostess for the recipe. Would you believe it, she told me it was made from Liu-hi's extract!—of course made up with vegetables. I have been obliged to give up this winter, and it is so difficult to keep the stock; but now that I know how to make stock each day from Liu-hi, I shall surprise Tom with an amount of new soups. The flavour is excellent, and one would imagine that it was the most expensive stock—not human, inexpensive Liebig.—Lady *** in Life.—Advertisement.

Government Notification.
No. 56.
HARBOUR DEPARTMENT.
The following Rules regarding signalling by the Peak are published for general information.

By Command,
FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 17th February, 1883.

SIGNAL STATION, VICTORIA PEAK, HONGKONG,
1883. *Read above the last Letter.*

1. The Union Jack will be hoisted at the Mast Head when any vessel is being signalled.

2. The Commercial Code of Signals for all Nations will be used at the Station.

3. All Signals made by vessels in the Harbour or in the Oiling, a White Ensign will be hoisted at the Flagstaff, and at the Mast Head of the Man-of-War.

4. When Signalling to Men-of-War in the Harbour or in the Oiling, a White Ensign will be hoisted at the Flagstaff, and at the Mast Head of the Man-of-War.

5. When a Steamer, or the smoke of a Steamer, is sighted, the Compass Bearing at the Yard Arm, and Distances from the Mast Head, will be hoisted. If, when the vessel is made out, she is not a Mail Steamer, the vessel's Distinguishing Flag will be substituted for the Compass Signal, and it will be kept flying until the Ship arrives. The Distance Signal will be kept up within minutes after the Steamer is made out.

6. If the Steamer is a regular Mail Steamer, or will be first, and a Ball over the Postman, a flag will be hoisted with the Distance off at that time, will be shown at the Mast Head. The Compass Signal and Symbol will be hoisted daily.

7. All Signals made by vessels in the Harbour or in the Oiling, a White Ensign will be hoisted at the Flagstaff, and at the Mast Head of the Man-of-War.

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